NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

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MONTHLY MEMO TO LOCAL PRESIDENTS

Board Meeting. During the first week in December your National Board will be meeting in Kansas City, Missouri. We have not met together for a year. Because of travel restrictions, our Convention had to be canceled, and so did our spring Board meeting. The Executive Committee, however, met in May to transact necessary business.

Now that we can meet again as a Board we expect to discuss many serious matters. The postwar days about which we have long been talking are here at last, and we want to learn whether or not we are making the adjustments we ought to make in our program so as to keep pace with changing conditions. Next month you will hear more of this meeting of your leaders—National officers, National chairmen, and all state presidents—and we shall share our thinking with you. Watch for statements regarding compulsory military training and other important questions.

Learn the Facts. Recently a number of communications have come to me—a few of them anonymous—criticizing certain things we were supposed to be doing or saying, or telling of things speakers have said about us at some meeting or other. I have been rather amazed that our members would believe such tales, and rather distressed that they could not take the time to find out the facts. Instead they have evidently believed what they heard and have become greatly disturbed.

In each case the story either was entirely untrue or simple facts had been distorted and twisted. A post card would have brought the correct information quickly. Won't you write your state president if you hear gossip or tales relating to state matters, or to your National president if you hear any about National affairs?

As we grow in numbers and in strength of purpose there are many persons who might wish to discredit our efforts. This is *your* organization. Your leaders are all *volunteer* workers just as you are; they are your elected representatives. When something disturbs or puzzles you, talk to them first to find out the facts.

• • •

Just a year ago I asked you to begin to study, in your December meetings, the Dumbarton Oaks Proposals for an organization to keep the world at peace. I stressed the fact that we were engaged in the most important task of our lives—that of using the opportunity, won for us on the battlefields of the world by our own young men, to create a world order based on cooperation instead of force and to set up the machinery through which we can work.

Much has happened since then, as you know so well. We have our international machinery, but *our job now* is to get it working and keep it working. Our only choice is to do this or revert to chaos.

A Note. In order to help you understand the United Nations Charter and the United Nations Organization, we plan to include in the January *Bulletin* a summary of the basic facts about them and suggestions for a more detailed study if you wish to make it.

"A Woman's Prayer." During the course of the United Nations Organization conference a women's conference was also held at San Francisco. Women from our own land and women from other countries shared in the program. Perhaps the keynote of that meeting was best expressed in a poem that was read there—"A Woman's Prayer," composed by Carol Norton of San Francisco. These brief but moving lines convey the spirit we all must feel if we are to make a better world. They somehow bring the responsibility home to each of us, and, although the poem is written especially for women, it could be a man's prayer—or a girl's or boy's prayer—just as well, with very few changes. It should be our own Christmas prayer and our resolution for this New Year and all the years ahead. For like most other good things, peace must begin in our own hearts and be practiced first in our own homes.

I, a woman, do pledge myself before my God to share with all women in implementing the peace.
I shall not allow terror and greed, cruelty and oppression to invade my domestic tranquillity.
I shall encircle my hearth and my home with a warmth of human affection.
I shall strive to give my children and my children's children a world that is secure and free.
I shall teach them to love and lend aid to their fellow men as I shall do.
And above all, I shall clasp the hand of my neighbor from sea to sea in lasting friendship.

Unfortunately there seem to be many reactionary forces at work in the world at present, making the way toward successful cooperative living so much the harder. But not too hard, if we keep our faith and our vision of what may be. May we ever let this prayer guide our daily thoughts and actions.

☆ ☆ ☆

A truly happy Christmas to all of you is the wish of

Your president,

Minnetta A. Hastings

WHAT OUR CONGRESS PARENT-

Check at once with your NBC radio station to find out when to tune in on *The Baxters*, our National Congress radio program. If your local station cannot broadcast it at the regular time, suggest a rebroadcast at a later hour.

The School Explains to the Parents

A big step in the direction of close home-school cooperation is being taken this year by the Madison, Wisconsin, Vocational and Adult Education School. An evening course, open to all adults without charge and entitled "Interpretation of School Procedures and Activities for the Parent," is now well under way.

The course consists of ten informal group discussions on the following topics:

- Why do we need schools?
- How do we pay for the education of our children?
- The controls and costs of education.
- Tests and testing programs.
- What is an IQ?
- How do teachers measure the child's work?
- What to look for when you visit your school.
- Some problems of school discipline.
- Gripes and misunderstandings.
- Should all pupils finish high school?
- Who should go to college?
- Where does the state superintendent fit into the school picture?
- Where do the local school board members fit into the educational picture?

Leadership Training Classes

First- and second-year classes in leadership education are an important part of the parent education program of the Long Island District, New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers. These classes meet every month in four Long Island towns. Their purposes are:

1. *To help presidents, parent education chairmen, preschool service chairmen, committee members, and prospective leaders in planning and organizing their work.*

2. *To help officials and leaders interested in learning more about the techniques of informal discussion.*

3. *To provide an opportunity to learn more about the various phases of parent and preschool education.*

4. *To provide an opportunity to know about the resources and materials of assistance in parent and family life education, including preschool education.*

Democracy at Work

—in the P.T.A.

Many of us have followed with deep concern the newspaper accounts of racial difficulties in high schools throughout the country. The community of Gary, Indiana, has received nation-wide publicity on this score, and many of you may have been wondering what the P.T.A.'s of that city are doing to help overcome the situation. Therefore we knew you would be interested in the following statement.

Statement of the executive committee of the Froebel Parent-Teacher Association of Gary, Indiana, prepared in accordance with the decision at the regular meeting of the association:

We feel ashamed that even before our boys have returned from the battlefields of Europe and Asia, our community should receive nation-wide publicity about a so-called strike of white students. We appeal to all white and Negro parents to assist in resuming the peaceful relations which existed among the students of the Froebel School prior to this Tuesday.

As a unit of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, we adhere to the policy of the National organization which declares "the conviction that international understanding and good will are but the reflection of the democratic habits and attitudes that are acquired in successful group living in home, community, and nation."

Further: We must see that our democracy "provides opportunity for the best development of all its people; that it guarantees them the essential freedoms; that it gives each child an equal opportunity for education, since the hope of the world lies in the development of its children into wise and well-informed citizens."

We have won the war and defeated fascism, as a nation composed of many races and people of many nationality backgrounds. The united effort of these races and groups spared the American people from the horrors of invasion.

We abhor and condemn the work of some unknown organizers of racial hatred in Gary, who have intimidated boys and girls, both Negro and white, instilling fear of bodily harm to keep them out of the classrooms and spreading this fear among the parents.

Rumors to the contrary, we declare that there is no evidence whatsoever that any child has been injured in any fighting between children of different races in or around Froebel School.

We believe that there has been an improvement in the conduct of the children in the last year or so and a better understanding among Negro and white parents. This is shown by the growing membership of our parent-teacher association, in which 22 members enrolled at the height of the disturbance and during one of our largest and most enthusiastic meetings.

We doubt the sincerity and sound thinking of those who call for transfers of small children to schools miles from their homes across dangerous railroad tracks. We feel that all children living within this school district regardless of race or national origin have the right to attend Froebel School, for which all pay taxes.

We feel that it is the duty of this P.T.A. and all church and fraternal organizations in this community to help create better relations and help build the future citizenship of the nation.

"The P.T.A. in Oklahoma"

This is the title of a newly revised course now offered for correspondence study by the University of Oklahoma and taught by Alice Sowers, professor of family life education and director of the Family Life Institute. Until last May Dr. Sowers had long been a member of the National Congress Board of Managers.

TEACHER GROUPS *Are Doing*

A Library Cooperates

Local publicity chairmen in Montclair, New Jersey, were offered an unusual service this fall by the Montclair Public Library in the form of a publicity institute. Meeting at the library on three consecutive Thursday mornings, the chairmen heard talks on the ideals and objectives of publicity, on newspaper requirements for publicity copy, and on the art of writing news. Each talk was given by an authority on the subject, whose practical experience yielded valuable suggestions and advice.

Music Appreciation

The Harding Parent-Teacher Association in Van Dyke, Michigan, has recently carried out a commendable music appreciation idea. Mrs. S. Hoyt, chairman of publicity, sends an interesting account of how different groups in the community cooperated in the accomplishment of a common purpose.

• *An electric organ, newly installed in the Bethel Methodist Church one block from the school, served as inspiration for the project. First, the pastor's wife, an accomplished musician, consented to prepare a concert especially suited to children. Then the parish priest from Ascension Church loaned a large painting of "The Angelus" for the occasion.*

The children came in three separate groups, accompanied by their teachers. One of the older pupils told the story of the picture, and the students were asked to listen for the call to prayer in the music. For the tiny tots the organist played simple passages that enabled them to identify the voice of the viola or flute. To the older children she explained some features of the organ and played more difficult portions of the music, thus adapting her presentation to the capacities of each age group.

• The results were so gratifying that this appreciation hour became the first of many more to be sponsored by the Harding P.T.A.

Can You Top This?

Four units in the Atlanta (Georgia) Council boast a remarkable membership record for 1944–45. Jerome Jones School reported 100 per cent enrollment of its mothers, fathers, and teachers *for the third consecutive year.* In three other schools 100 per cent of the pupils' families are represented in their respective P.T.A.'s. One of these, Bass Junior High School, has the largest unit in the state—1,551 members. Total membership in the Atlanta Council is 21,041.

The P.T.A. on the Radio

Alert radio chairmen and council leaders may find a workable idea in the series of broadcasts sponsored last year by the East Aurora (Illinois) Council. Every week a different P.T.A. put on a fifteen-minute program over WMRO, using scripts from the National Radio Script Service. Members and students took part in the dramatizations, aided by a competent director.

Council members believe the success of these programs was due first to the high quality of the scripts and second to the publicity given by local newspapers, supplemented by announcements in the schools and at P.T.A. meetings.

Local Theater Previews

A classified list of first-run movies is an interesting feature of the *Council Bulletin,* a monthly mimeographed news sheet published by the Tulsa (Oklahoma) Council of Parent-Teacher Associations. Current films are grouped under four headings—"Family Entertainment: Audience over 8," "Mature Family: Audience over 14," "Mature Family," and "Adult."

Lectures on World Peace

Inspired by Mrs. Hastings' message, "The Most Important Job of Your Life," in the *National Congress Bulletin,* the Atwater and Lake Bluff Parent-Teacher Associations of Wisconsin cooperated with the Shorewood Opportunity School in presenting four factual lectures on world peace.

Dr. J. Martin Klotsche, history professor, radio commentator, and analyst of world affairs conducted the discussions. The following are a few of the important questions considered by the group:

- Are we accepting our responsibility for world peace?
- Are we willing to pay a price to maintain peace?
- Are we really for democracy as against fascism all over the world?
- Are we willing to help raise the standard of living among our poverty-stricken world neighbors?
- Do we just criticize or do we try to understand the issues involved?
- Are we willing to disregard our prejudices in order to understand the issues at stake?
- Have we thought about the alternative to world organization?
- Are we helping to build a world of promise for our children and grandchildren?

LOOKING FOR . . .

CHRISTMAS GIFTS?

• Have you thought of our book *The Parent-Teacher Organization: Its Origins and Development?* It will give all who read it an authentic story of the parent-teacher movement in the United States, and it makes an ideal gift for a teacher, a school principal, or a school superintendent. Young men and women who are preparing for the teaching profession will prize it highly as an invaluable reference volume. Order from the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, 600 South Michigan Boulevard, Chicago 5, Illinois. Price, $1.25.

Victory Clothing Collection

THE second United National Clothing Collection will be known as the "Victory Clothing Collection." It is to be conducted from January 7 to 31, 1946, and will have for its goal 100,000,000 good, used garments. As an expression of international friendship, each contributor will also be invited to send a good-will letter to the unknown person who will receive his donation.

The collection will again be on a community-wide basis, and you can do much to help in the following ways:

1. Make sure that the local P.T.A. membership knows about the collection and plans to contribute to this worth-while cause.

2. Encourage members to serve on local clothing collection committees whenever possible.

3. In communities where groups are not yet functioning, take the lead in establishing a representative community committee or in reorganizing last year's committee for the coming drive.

Even though the war is over, we must not forget the suffering millions who are still enduring untold hardships long after the sounds of battle have ceased. Add a mid-winter closet cleaning to your list of resolutions for 1946!

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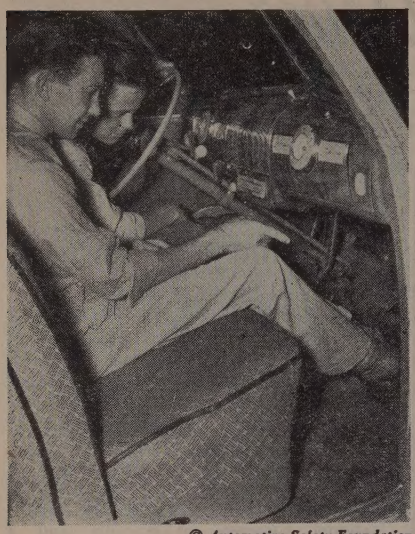

© *Automotive Safety Foundation*

"Teach Them To Drive"

Parent-teacher groups will be interested in seeing the new American Legion 16mm sound movie entitled "Teach Them To Drive," which was produced by the Pennsylvania State College in cooperation with the Automotive Safety Foundation. The showing time is 20 minutes.

It is a dramatic story of two typical, American parents whose son lost his life in an automobile crash. Shocked by such a needless tragedy, they wage a campaign for the adoption of driver education and training in their community's schools.

For further information on the availability of this film, get in touch with your local American Legion post, the state division of the Legion, or its national headquarters at Indianapolis, Indiana.

Mrs. L. K. Nicholson, National Chairman
Committee on Safety

"A Building Boom That Won't Bust"

The above slogan of OPA Director Chester Bowles is explained in a recent article in the *Saturday Evening Post.* Mr. Bowles says there:

"The building boom ahead of us is loaded—and with dynamite. Will it hit us like the boom after the last war, leaving a wreckage of overpriced homes, inflated mortgages, foreclosures, and unemployment? Or will it do what it should do—provide steady, long-term building employment and decent, soundly financed housing for a home-hungry nation?"

We entered the war with an acute housing shortage, Mr. Bowles continues. On top of this, since Pearl Harbor more than a million new families have been created. And they are all clamoring for good homes.

To keep this inevitable building boom from becoming a bust, the OPA director recommends the following steps:

1. *Price controls on critically scarce building materials.*
2. *Wise controls on construction costs.*
3. *Some form of control over real estate prices and the sales prices of homes.*
4. *Maintaining of rent controls on present properties and of ceilings on new apartment buildings.*

Urge your friends, your neighbors, and your P.T.A. to give all-out support to this vitally necessary price-control program.

WHAT P.T.A. MEMBERSHIP OFFERS

THE Objects of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers express the first general appeal to the citizen who is looking for a chance to do something worth while in his community. If he has a child or is interested at any point in the welfare and education of children, he will read those Objects and say to himself: "Here is an organization whose program I can wholeheartedly support."

Having satisfied himself that the Objects are vital and significant, the civic-minded citizen will seek the answers to other important questions.

● Suppose he is a parent. All right, put yourself in his place. As you set about seeking information on what membership in a P.T.A. means to you as a parent you will find that it gives you a chance to:

1. Learn more about what your children do at school, what they study, what kind of equipment and facilities the school offers them.
2. Get acquainted with your children's teachers—those partners of yours who preside over the personal development and destiny of those precious youngsters.
3. Acquire a wealth of current information about child care and home management—through our National Congress publications.
4. Talk over your problems and share your experiences with other parents not only in P.T.A. meetings but in study groups, institutes, conferences, and conventions.
5. Find out, as a taxpayer, how your children's schools can be improved—whether they receive enough financial support, what kind of a board of education you have and what legislation is needed to give your children and all children the best free public education.
6. Add your voice to the united strength of an organization that wields a powerful influence in promoting the welfare of all children everywhere.

● Then, suppose you are a teacher. What benefits would P.T.A. membership offer you? Again you will discover that the P.T.A. will enable you to:

1. Make yourself a real part of the community you serve.
2. Increase your understanding of your pupils' needs by getting to know their parents and their home environments.
3. Do your bit toward giving the public a better understanding of the objectives and goals of modern public education, its methods and its courses of study.
4. Enrich your own life by helping with community projects that work for the common good of all.
5. Realize more fully the true importance of your profession and its service to youth.

● Whether you are a parent or a teacher, then, you will find that the benefits of belonging to a P.T.A. are innumerable. Working together as a solidly united group, your *cooperative efforts* will allow you to:

1. Play your part in an organization that is nationally known and universally respected.
2. Join in an effective nation-wide program of child welfare.
3. Act as a citizen of a democracy and help to perpetuate the American way of life.
4. Encourage tolerance for all nationalities, races, and creeds in a nation whose free public schools are a priceless heritage.
5. Keep abreast of national and international developments as they affect the welfare of children.
6. Enjoy a fruitful partnership in the education of the whole child.
7. Help to enact legislation that will foster progress toward goals worthy of the highest efforts of all Americans.
8. Develop personal interests and talents.

● The National Congress of Parents and Teachers is the only organization that gives power, prestige, vitality, and significance to the letters P.T.A. Without its organized guidance, its constructive program of work, its supporting national contacts, and its established place in the affairs of the nation, the letters P.T.A. would not mean the same to your school or your community.

WHAT'S GOING ON . . .
INTERNATIONALLY

OUR National president, Mrs. Hastings, recently attended meetings in Washington to discuss the draft proposals for the International Educational and Cultural Organization. We were one of the groups that did so much at San Francisco toward making sure that education was included in the United Nations Charter. Our efforts, along with those of other interested groups, were finally so successful that the term now appears in the Charter nine times! The meeting taking place in London will develop plans for setting up the International Educational and Cultural Organization that will function as part of the United Nations Organization.

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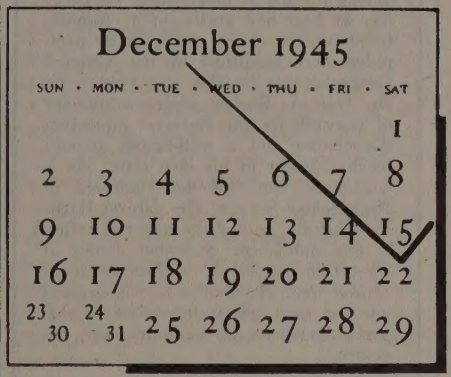
Action is also being taken to develop welfare services for children on an international basis. We worked for this, too, at San Francisco. Katharine F. Lenroot, chief of the Children's Bureau, is a member of the United States delegation which met in Paris in October to consider this matter. Miss Lenroot, a parent-teacher friend of long standing and an honorary life member of the National Congress, has been most helpful to us in the past, and we shall continue to keep in close touch with her on all developments regarding child welfare.

• • •

The Interim Committee established at San Francisco to prepare for the first session of the United Nations Organization is also at work in London. Nation after nation is ratifying the Charter, the latest signature being that of Russia on October 28. The first meeting of the General Assembly will be held early in December, and its deliberations will be of the utmost interest to all of us. In view of new developments since the San Francisco meeting, the sooner the nations can meet together again, the better for all the world.

TUNE IN ON *The Baxters*



THE first broadcast in the parent-teacher radio program for 1945–46, sponsored by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers in cooperation with the National Broadcasting Company, will be heard on Saturday, December 15 under the title "What Can We Substitute for War?" The program will be broadcast over NBC every Saturday at 1:30 p.m. CST. Back with us again are the popular Baxters, who seem marked for longevity. Their genuine awareness of the world in which we live and their rich talent for adjusting to it show no signs of diminishing. The questions that face them, the issues that confront them, and the convictions that stir them are still the same as those of countless American families. So listen to the Baxters and with them capture the high spirit and clear knowledge upon which our future must be built.

The titles for the first thirteen broadcasts are as follows:

1. *December 15*—"What Can We Substitute for War?"
2. *December 22*—"Good Will Toward Men"
3. *December 29*—"Dad's at Home Now"
4. *January 5*—"The Baxters Air Their Views on Military Training"
5. *January 12*—"Sex Education Is Essential"
6. *January 19*—"The Bobby Sox Brigade"
7. *January 26*—"Shall Sandy Go to Nursery School?"
8. *February 2*—"Youth Out of Line"
9. *February 9*—"The Menace of Divorce"
10. *February 16*—"Good Manners Go Deep"
11. *February 23*—"Let's Get Rid of Prejudice"
12. *March 2*—"How Much History Are Children Learning?"
13. *March 9*—"Bud Bids for a Raise"

• Canvass your membership to find out how many persons listened regularly to the program last year and plan to resume listening this year. Then through telephone or personal calls, try to reach all other members who can be added to this year's listening audience. Inform your local NBC radio station of the interest in the program.

• If your local station did not carry the program last year, do all in your ower to persuade the management to add "The Baxters" to its schedule.

• Confer with the station director regarding the possibility of making a transcription of the program for later use, in the event that previous commercial contracts conflict with the time of the original broadcast.

• Launch a community-wide campaign of publicity about the program.

Enlist the aid of all cooperating agencies in informing their memberships about it.

Send notices to all newspapers.

Prepare a typed, printed, or mimeographed announcement of the program and distribute it to all townspeople.

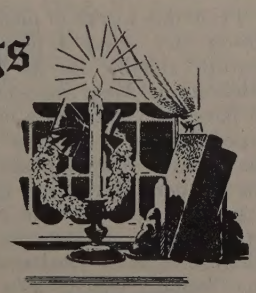
Announce the broadcast at the first few meetings of the P.T.A. and remind your membership from time to time about the program. Topics for group discussion might occasionally be built around some of the same questions and problems that confront the Baxters.

Secure the cooperation of the schools in publicizing the broadcast. A program review by the journalism class and a bulletin board display in the library are other ways in which the schools can help to make the program known to everyone.

Every time we add a listener to the Baxter program, we're giving more than enjoyment—we're giving enlightenment about problems that are everyone's concern.

The Season's Greetings

The members of the Board of Managers of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers extend to you and to your members their best wishes for a happy and joyous Christmas and for success in your parent-teacher endeavors in the interests of America's children and youth during the coming year.



P.T.A. ALMANAC FOR DECEMBER

Within the association:

- December 15. Listen to the first program in the new winter series of *The Baxters* over NBC, 1:30–1:45 p.m., Central Standard Time.
- Study the Christmas customs of other lands.
- Take part in the Christmas activities of the school and the P.T.A., with emphasis on character and spiritual education.
- At the holiday season make the most of your opportunities for wholesome fun and recreation in the home.
- Make plans to study the United Nations Charter and the United Nations Organization (see Mrs. Hastings' Memo).
- Arrange for a January display of all Congress publications, including the *National Parent-Teacher* magazine.

Within the community:

- December 7—Pearl Harbor Day. This date is one not to celebrate but to remember with a view to averting such a catastrophe in the future. Point up the importance of international understanding that will allow the countries of the world to live together in a spirit of good fellowship and peace. Write to the Foreign Policy Association, 22 East 38th Street, New York 16, New York, for the list entitled "United Through Books."
- December 25. Participate in local Christmas festivities and cooperate with social agencies in distributing food and gifts to needy families in the community.

Looking for Christmas Gifts?

Is there a young couple in *your* town whom you would like to interest in parent-teacher work? Perhaps the young husband has recently returned from the service of his country. Probably he isn't yet well established in his career, and maybe there isn't money enough for all the things he would like to buy for his family—magazines especially. If your P.T.A. has any funds left over from some money-raising affair, why not give this couple a Christmas gift subscription to the *National Parent-Teacher?* It will be a monthly reminder of your interest in them as well as a real source of help and enjoyment for them. Many young parents are attracted to the P.T.A. through reading the *National Parent-Teacher*. Presenting gift subscriptions is good extension work!

Summer Round-Up Reports

Reports on the Summer Round-Up should be sent to the state or National Office so that we may have an accurate record of how many children were checked for physical fitness this year. The statistics of the Summer Round-Up will be truly impressive if every association complies with this request.

The High School Parent-Teacher Association

• If this publication were on the general book market, it would surely be among the list of best sellers, for every day we hear new praises of it. Rapidly becoming one of the most popular pamphlets ever published by the National Congress, this booklet was written by Dr. Ivan A. Booker, assistant director of research for the National Education Association and a well-known parent-teacher leader in his own state. As is customary, the National chairman of High School Service, Mrs. Grover Hartt, thoughtfully studied the material before it was published. Sufficient copies of *The High School Parent-Teacher Association* were distributed free to provide one for each group interested in this particular field of parent-teacher endeavor.

FOUNDERS DAY MATERIAL

The new 1946 Founders Day pamphlet is just off press. Sufficient copies have been sent to each state office to provide one free for each

- *Local association*
- *State Founders Day chairman*
- *District and council leader*

The pamphlet contains:

- A message from Mrs. William Kletzer, National chairman of Founders Day
- Four pageants:
  "February's Immortals"
  "Of Any Child Alive"
  "The Shining Road"
  "Light for Tomorrow"
- A candlelighting playlet: "Burn, Candles, Burn"
- Four suggested talks for Founders Day
- A radio script: "With Faith and Hope" (arranged for use on the air or as a staged mock broadcast)
- Five acrostics on Founders Day
- Biographies of the Founders
- "Milestones Along the Way," a chronological history of the important parent-teacher events from 1897 through the first eight months of 1945.
- A list of music appropriate for Founders Day

From this wealth of material any local group may select a play, pageant, or acrostic suitable for its Founders Day celebration. Many associations arrange to have sufficient copies of the pageants typed locally to provide one for each participant. Watch your state bulletin for further information about when to expect distribution of the pamphlet within your state. Please note that it is not distributed to the local associations from the National Office. It is sent to state offices for free distribution.

COOPERATION WITH YOUTH-SERVING AGENCIES

THE parent-teacher organization is known not only for its many direct contributions to the welfare of youth but for its commendable cooperation with other youth-serving agencies, chief among which are the Girl Scouts, the Boy Scouts, and the Camp Fire Girls.

Girl Scouts

• Records of the Girl Scouts reveal that parent-teacher associations have sponsored many groups and given other types of aid such as providing leaders; furnishing equipment; helping to organize troops; giving financial aid; publicizing the work of the Girl Scouts; providing meeting places; and giving other kinds of assistance. In 1944, 531 (53 per cent) out of 994 local councils reported help given by parent-teacher associations—a 2 per cent increase over the previous year.

Boy Scouts

• From the Boy Scouts comes the following statement from the director of the Division of Relationships:

"Through the years we have had very delightful relationships with you and your state and local associations. At the end of 1944 the parent-teacher associations were sponsoring and administering 2,515 Scout Troops and 3,057 Cub Packs, for a total of 5,572 Scout units. This is a major accomplishment. No other single organization has sponsored so many Scout units."

Camp Fire Girls

• On September 1, 1945, the records of the Camp Fire Girls showed that parent-teacher associations sponsored 3,421 groups representing 42 per cent of the total number on the active membership list. In addition, there are many other groups known as "independent," which are sponsored by a committee or some officer of a parent-teacher association. Although an exact count of these groups is not available, the Division of Records estimates that about 60 per cent of the total membership in the Camp Fire Girls are sponsored by our local units, either directly or indirectly.

FLASH

As we go to press we are informed by the National Broadcasting Company that *The Baxters* will go on the air one week later than originally announced. Please notify all members of this change. The corrected schedule appears on page 5 of this *Bulletin*.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

DURING the autumn and winter seasons many worthy campaigns for various donations are conducted, and local units are often approached about making contributions from association funds. In her "Monthly Memo" of October 1944, Mrs. Hastings clarified this question, and we are reprinting her statement in the hope that it may help you to answer queries this year:

> "Many of you have told me of the requests that other organizations have made of you for gifts of money. You say that this problem is indeed a vexing one, for if you heed all these requests your association will become a money-making group for other organizations with little time for its own work.

"The section in our *Manual* on 'Ethics of Money Raising' gives sound advice on this matter. Parent-teacher funds are for parent-teacher needs. We keep our dues low so that anyone may join, but we have organization expenses that must be met and we are usually interested in some child welfare project of our own that needs to be financed. A budget for the year should be prepared taking into account the needs of our program in all its phases. If the dues will not cover what is needed, then one money-making occasion should be planned in cooperation with school authorities.

"But if we have funds on hand and some other agency asks for a donation, what should be our answer? We know we cannot give to every worthy cause. We know that all interests are represented among our membership and that some will want to contribute to one cause and some to another. Let us therefore give our services and our money *as individuals* to those causes that interest us. At times our organization may work with other groups, such as the Community Chest or the USO. Let us do our part in helping with their activities if we have the time without neglecting our own homes, but if we begin donating right and left there will be no end to the demands made upon us.

"We do not ask for donations from others; we do work with others very often in soliciting funds for some community need—such as braces for crippled children, innoculations for those who can't pay for them, school lunches for those without the necessary funds, and so on, but we plan these activities in advance and include them in our budget. We are one of the largest organizations in the country; we have a well-recognized program of our own. Let us always do our part, guided by our own principles, but avoid at all costs the reputation of being 'easy marks.'"

Denver Chosen for Convention

Next year will see us once more meeting together to share ideas with parent-teacher leaders from all parts of our vast country. Denver, Colorado, has been selected as the site for the most important parent-teacher event of the year—the National Convention! Tentative dates selected are May 20–22, 1946, and plans are already under way for a program of unusual merit.

A STATEMENT CONCERNING PRICE CONTROLS

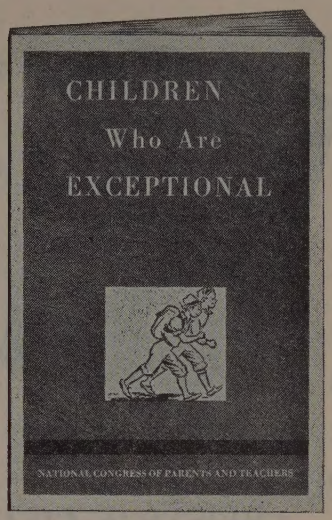
WE FEEL that the crucial test of price control is now emerging, as powerful forces press for its abandonment prematurely. We support the OPA in resisting these pressures. We realize that this fight can be won only if consumers recognize their stake in this vital, economic matter and actively support OPA in its policy of holding the price line. The Second War Powers Act will expire on December 31, 1945. With it would expire controls over allocations, rationing, and production. We urge that in the repassage of the Second War Powers Act there be attached no crippling amendments that would limit the authority to exercise these controls wherever they might still be necessary to curb inflation.

Moreover, we believe that consumer subsidies must be maintained for those commodities in which supplies remain short and in which price increases may be threatened as the result of their premature removal.

We commend OPA for its steadfast policy of maintaining rent control and for requesting authority to fix prices on all residential real estate, including building lots and old and new homes.

We are strongly in support of OPA's policy of insisting that distributors absorb increased costs when such absorption does not impair prewar levels of profit. The proposal to pass such increases on to the public on a cost-plus basis would pyramid prices and be a sure road to catastrophe.

—Mrs. William A. Hastings



Looking for Christmas Gifts?

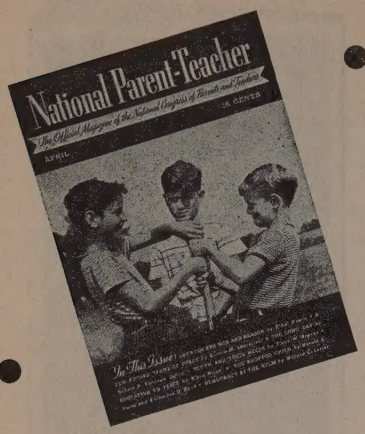
• Have you considered our brand-new pamphlet *Children Who Are Exceptional?* Buy a copy of it for parents or teachers whose interest is devoted to exceptional children. They will find something of value in each of these chapters:

- **Lights Among the Shadows**
- **What Is the Crippled Child's Outlook?**
- **Modern Magic in Sight Saving**
- **When a Child Is Blind**
- **Some Children You Should Know**
- **Deafness—A Hazard and a Challenge**
- **Is Your Child Under Par?**
- **When a Child Learns Slowly**
- **Epilepsy—A Social Problem**
- **The Problem Child's Problem**
- **The Gifted Child—A Future Leader**
- **Back of the Schools—the People**

Order from the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, 600 South Michigan Boulevard, Chicago 5, Illinois. Price, 50c.

The Preschool Age— A Period of Promise

• Does your association have a preschool section? Or is yours a preschool association? In either case you should be sure you have a copy of the new pamphlet for preschool groups, *The Preschool Age—A Period of Promise.* This interesting and practical pamphlet was prepared for the National Congress by Mrs. Marion F. McDowell, specialist in child development and family relations at Rutgers University. As is customary, the material was carefully analyzed before its release by Mrs. Carl Brister, National chairman of Preschool Service. This is a free publication, and enough copies of it are available from state offices to supply interested Congress associations.



LOOKING FOR . . . CHRISTMAS GIFTS?

Have you thought of *National Parent-Teacher: The P.T.A. Magazine?*

GIVE IT TO:

- *Friends who have children*
- *Sunday-school teachers*
- *Nuns who teach*
- *Clergymen of all denominations*
- *Doctors or dentists for their reception rooms*
- *Home and foreign missionaries*
- *School principals*
- *Friends in foreign lands*

The subscription price in the United States and its possessions is $1 a year; in Canada, $1.25; and in other countries, $1.50. Make check or money order payable to *National Parent-Teacher* and mail to National Parent-Teacher, 600 South Michigan Boulevard, Chicago 5, Illinois. You might send one of your own Christmas cards with a message inscribed: "I am sending you the *National Parent-Teacher* as a Christmas gift this year," or you may ask to have one of the magazine gift cards mailed to the person who is to receive the subscription. *National Parent-Teacher: The P.T.A. Magazine* is an appropriate, inexpensive, useful, and welcome Christmas gift.

School Lunch Registrations

More than 300 registrations for the school lunch project have come to the National Office from the states. Remind your school lunch chairman that each association should fill in both sections of the registration blank and send it to the state office or to the state school lunch chairman. Then the local unit will be sent a score card showing standards of achievement for earning points toward a certificate of award. Only those associations that have earned 75 or more points will be eligible for a certificate next spring.

Making sure that school children have a hot noon meal daily is one of our most worthwhile projects. Let's have more registrations this year than ever before!

THE ANSWERS

Q. We need more membership cards. How do we get them?

A. Write to your state office. Membership cards are not distributed to local associations from the National Office. Each state receives a quantity of cards equal to one for each member, plus 35 per cent for extension use. The cards are sent in bulk from the National Office to the state offices and are distributed from there.

Q. Does the National Congress ever get more than five cents per member for dues?

A. No. The National portion of membership dues is always five cents—no more, no less.

Q. Where can I get the official P.T.A. seals to use on programs?

A. Write to the state office for a supply. They are sold at cost by the state congresses.

Q. What is the price of the *Parent-Teacher Manual?* Can anyone buy a copy?

A. The price varies in different states. The ceiling price established by the National Congress is 25 cents a copy. The *Parent-Teacher Manual* is distributed *only* by the state congresses. Sufficient copies are supplied free each year to provide two for each local association, but any accredited local worker may buy an extra copy if he wishes to own one.

Q. Would you be kind enough to give me some help in preparing a program on health?

A. Every state congress has a committee on health. The chairman of your state committee will be glad to help you with your program. If you do not have the state chairman's name, send your request to the state office, and it will be relayed to the proper person. This procedure applies to all inquiries regarding state work. Before you write to the National Office, check to see whether or not the information you need is available from your state chairman.

Q. A friend of mine in another town wants to organize a P.T.A. Where should he write?

A. Tell him to write to the state office or to the state membership chairman.

Q. Is it true that *paid* membership of the National Congress is 3,487,138?

A. Yes, that's the truth! Before the annual membership figure is released, the dues to substantiate it are checked and audited by a responsible firm of public accountants.

VICTORY COLLECTION OF CANNED FOOD

AS WE sit around our bountiful tables during this holiday season, we must not forget the many people in other lands who are spending a cold and hungry Christmas in 1945.

Is your community helping in the "Victory Collection of Canned Food"? This project, conducted by the Community Canning Program for Overseas Relief, provides an opportunity for individuals, groups, and organizations to give commercially canned food for overseas relief. Many who were unable to participate in community canning projects will want to help with this collection of canned food, which will be distributed by UNRRA to the needy men, women, and children in the countries ravaged by war.

Collections begin at once and may be continued as long as there is need for food in the devastated areas overseas. All types and varieties of canned foods will be accepted. The only requirement is that contributions be packed in *tin*, as glass containers present difficulties of shipment.

For further information regarding this project write to:

Community Canning Program for Overseas Relief, 100 Maiden Lane, New York 7, New York

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Q. Do the officers of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers draw a salary?

A. They do not. All officers and National Board members serve without pay, just as do all leaders at the state and local levels. One of the reasons why the National Congress is given respect and attention is that it is known the country over as a volunteer group concerned only with the welfare of children and youth.

Q. Where do we get the Birney Memorial post cards?

A. They are on sale from all state congress offices.

Q. Who receives the *National Congress Bulletin?*

A. The *Bulletin* is sent regularly to 25,000 local parent-teacher presidents (through a portion of the dues set aside to pay for the subscriptions), to members of the National Board of Managers, and to more than 5,000 individual subscribers. Anyone may subscribe for the nominal rate of only 20 cents a year.